

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A service controls routing of incoming calls to a subscriber's voice mail system by forwarding a call to the subscriber's telephone from a terminating switch through a telecommunications network to an intelligent peripheral, based on instructions from a service control point. The intelligent peripheral queries the caller to select options, including leaving a message, paging the subscriber, and providing a personal identification number (PIN) to connect the call to the subscriber telephone. When leaving a message is selected, the intelligent peripheral connects the call to the voice mail system. When paging is selected, the intelligent peripheral obtains a call back number, disconnects the call and places a second call to the paging system. When connecting the call using a PIN is selected, the intelligent peripheral queries the caller to enter the PIN and, upon receiving an authorized PIN, connects the call to the subscriber telephone via the terminating switch.